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Remarks

The Office Action mailed May 28, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made as a consequence thereof.

Claims 1-5 and 7-29 are currently pending. Claim 6 has been canceled. Claim 29 is newly added. No fee is due for newly added Claim 29. Claims 1-28 are rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-11, 22, and 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koether (US 5,875,430) is respectfully traversed.

Koether discloses a bi-directional communication network which provides a method of performing service diagnostics. The method includes connecting kitchen appliances to a kitchen base station (each kitchen base station is capable of communicating through wireless means with corresponding kitchen appliances, see column 5, lines 3-19), requesting diagnostic information of the kitchen appliances, and taking action, including downloading updated diagnostic software, dispatching a service vehicle or updating accounting and inventory information (see column 5, line 60 to column 6, line 9).

Claim 1 recites a method of performing service diagnostics on appliances, wherein the method includes "connecting a diagnostic interface to a local area appliance network; accessing an appliance in the local area appliance network; and performing service diagnosis of the appliance through said diagnostic interface over the local area appliance network using service functions in the appliance".

Koether does not describe or suggest the method recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Koether does not disclose connecting a diagnostic interface to a local area appliance network, but rather discloses connecting to a kitchen base station. With reference to column 5, line 60-65, Koether describes that "each kitchen base station 150 (B.sub.1 -B.sub.6) may interrogate a corresponding

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controller 140 or controller 140 may request to transmit diagnostic information relating to the operating conditions of kitchen appliances 110 (A.sub.1 -A.sub.11), which diagnostic information may be immediately communicated to control center 170.", there is no information about accessing an appliance in the local area network in the cited patent. With reference to column 6, line 67-column 6, line 9, "[c]ontrol center 170 may take action as appropriate, including, among other things, downloading updated diagnostic software to controller 140, dispatching a service vehicle 195 through a mobile kitchen center 200, or updating accounting and inventory information, which is discussed in more detail herein below. Most of the functions are automatically controlled by control center 170, but may be also performed manually by the control center operator." Notably, Koether does not disclose performing service diagnosis on the appliance over the local area appliance network using service functions in the appliance. Therefore, Claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be patentable over Koether.

Claims 3-5 and 7-11 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 3-5 and 7-11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 3-5 and 7-11 are also patentable over Koether.

Claim 22 recites a system including "a diagnostic interface for accepting service diagnostic commands destined for the appliance; a local area appliance network coupled to the appliance and the diagnostic interface; and a dedicated appliance controller for receiving and executing the diagnostic commands".

However, Koether (the cited patent) discloses a communication system for monitoring and tracking the maintenance and repair of kitchen or cooking appliances, including a base station for accepting service diagnostic commands destined for the appliance, a cell containing the base station, and an appliance controller for receiving and executing the diagnostic commands.

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Koether does not disclose a local area appliance network, let alone the local area appliance network coupled to the appliance and the diagnostic interface. Rather Koether describes that appliances are located within each of cells 105, which also contain base station 150. Each kitchen base station 150 (B.sub.1 -B.sub.6) is capable of communicating through wireless means, such as through cellular radio or other wireless means, with corresponding kitchen appliances 110.

For at least the reasons above, Claim 22 is submitted to be patentable over Koether.

Claims 24-28 depend from the independent claim 12. When the recitations of Claims 24-28 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 12, Applicants submit that Claims 24-28 are also patentable over Koether.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 3-11, 22, and 24-28 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 2, 12-21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,875,430 to Koether is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 depends from Claim 1 which recites a method of performing service diagnostics on appliances, wherein the method includes "connecting a diagnostic interface to a local area appliance network; accessing an appliance in the local area appliance network; and performing service diagnosis of the appliance through said diagnostic interface over the local area appliance network using service functions in the appliance".

Koether does not describe or suggest the method recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Koether does not describe or suggest connecting a diagnostic interface to a local area appliance network, but rather discloses connecting to a kitchen base station. With reference to column 5, line 60-65, Koether describes that "each kitchen base station 150 (B.sub.1 -B.sub.6) may interrogate a

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corresponding controller 140 or controller 140 may request to transmit diagnostic information relating to the operating conditions of kitchen appliances 110 (A.sub.1 -A.sub.11), which diagnostic information may be immediately communicated to control center 170.", there is no information about accessing an appliance in the local area network in the cited patent. With reference to column 6, line 67-column 6, line 9, "[c]ontrol center 170 may take action as appropriate, including, among other things, downloading updated diagnostic software to controller 140, dispatching a service vehicle 195 through a mobile kitchen center 200, or updating accounting and inventory information, which is discussed in more detail herein below. Most of the functions are automatically controlled by control center 170, but may be also performed manually by the control center operator." Notably, Koether does not describe or suggest performing service diagnosis on the appliance over the local area appliance network using service functions in the appliance. Therefore, Claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be patentable over Koether.

Claim 2 depends from the independent claim 1. When the recitations of Claim 2 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claim 2 is also patentable over Koether.

Regarding claim 12, a diagnostic interface is claimed for performing service diagnostics on appliances. The diagnostic interface includes a display for viewing diagnostic and service information, processing circuitry for generating service commands for an appliance, and a power line carrier communication interface for transmitting the service commands to the appliance and receiving appliance diagnostic results on a power line carrier communication system.

Koether discloses a base station including a microprocessor, and a display coupled to the microprocessor. Koether does not disclose a power line carrier communication interface. The diagnostic interface of Claim 12 includes a display for viewing diagnostic and service information. The base station 150 of Koether does not include a display itself. According to

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Figure 2 and corresponding description of the cited patent, a display 155 is only coupled to the microprocessor 167 of the base station 150. Therefore, the claimed diagnostic interface is different from base station 150 and also novel over the cited patent. In addition, the power line carrier communication interface is novel. Therefore, Claim 12 is respectfully submitted to be patentable over Koether.

Claims 13-21 depend from Claim 12, and when the recitations of Claims 13-21 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 12, Applicants submit that Claims 13-21 are also patentable over Koether.

Claim 22 recites a system including "a diagnostic interface for accepting service diagnostic commands destined for the appliance; a local area appliance network coupled to the appliance and the diagnostic interface; and a dedicated appliance controller for receiving and executing the diagnostic commands".

However, Koether discloses a communication system for monitoring and tracking the maintenance and repair of kitchen or cooking appliances, comprising a base station for accepting service diagnostic commands destined for the appliance, a cell containing said base station, and an appliance controller for receiving and executing the diagnostic commands.

Koether does not describe or suggest a local area appliance network, let alone the local area appliance network coupled to the appliance and the diagnostic interface. Rather Koether describes that appliances are located within each of cells 105, which also contain base station 150. Each kitchen base station 150 (B.sub.1 -B.sub.6) is capable of communicating through wireless means, such as through cellular radio or other wireless means, with corresponding kitchen appliances 110.

For at least the reasons above, Claim 22 is submitted to be patentable over Koether.

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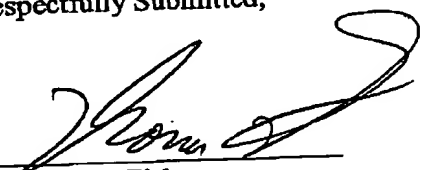
Claim 23 depends from independent claim 22. When the recitations of Claim 23 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 22, Applicants submit that Claim 23 is also patentable over Koether.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the section 103 rejection of Claims 2, 12-21, and 23 be withdrawn.

Newly added Claim 29 depends from Claim 22 which is submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas M. Fisher
Registration No. 47,564
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070